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REMARKS

Claims 22, 23, 30, 36-40 and 42 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable in view of Gosis et al. '429 and Kosmyna et al. '350. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised obviousness rejection in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 24-29, 31, 32, 34, 35 and 41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). In accordance with this indication, the allowable subject matter of claim 24 is suitably revised and incorporated into independent claim 22 and that amended independent claim is now believed to be allowable. In addition, all of the remaining claims are editorially revised and, as all of those claims—except for claim 36—depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 22, those dependent claims are now believed to be allowable as well.

The subject matter of claims 22 and 24 is revised and incorporated into independent claim 36 and that independent claim is now believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 24 is allowable.

Lastly new independent claim 43 is entered in this application and this claim corresponds to an independent claim currently pending in the corresponding EPO application. This new independent claim is also believed to be allowable since this independent claim incorporates, at the very least, the allowable subject matter of claim 24. Dependent claim 44 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 43 is allowable.

In view of the above claim amendments and cancellation of claims 24 and 30 from this case, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the applied prior art of Gosis et al. '429 and Kosmyna et al. '350 is not believed necessary. The Applicant also notes the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the Examiner against the claims of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning that art as well.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn at this time. If the Examiner disagrees with the

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Applicant's view concerning the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection(s) or applicability of the Gosis et al. '429 and/or Kosmyna et al. '350 references, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the specific passage or passages, or the drawing or drawings, which contain the necessary teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure required by case law. As such teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure is not present in the applied references, the raised rejection should be withdrawn at this time. Alternatively, if the Examiner is relying on his/her expertise in this field, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter an affidavit substantiating the Examiner's position so that suitable contradictory evidence can be entered in this case by the Applicant.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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